



REMARKS

As a result of the foregoing amendment, Claim 16 has been cancelled and claim 14 has been modified to contain the recitation previously contained in claim 16, namely, with respect to the compound being selected from the group consisting of the oligonucleotide and polynucleotide and also that the carrier is washed and dried. This is in response to the Examiner's indication that claim 14 contained an ambiguity. It is believed that this amendment now takes care of this ambiguity and accordingly, places the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt notice of allowance of all of the claims since they are now dependent upon an allowable claim, namely, claim 14 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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14. (twice amended) A method of fixing an oligonucleotide or a polynucleotide to a solid carrier which comprises the steps of spotting an aqueous solution containing [the oligonucleotide or the polynucleotide and] a hydrophilic polymer and a compound selected from the group consisting of the oligonucleotide and polynucleotide onto the solid carrier, washing the carrier, drying the carrier, and heating or exposing to radiation the carrier [resulting from the spotting step].